REMARKS

Claims 1, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 27, 29, 31, 32, 33, 36, 37 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention.

The Examiner's art rejections are primarily based upon Attachments A and B submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 13, 2004. The Examiner also relied on U.S. Patent. Pub. No. 2003/0021624 and U.S. Patent No. 6,612,771 in formulating rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Attachment A discloses a three subject notebook having a pair of covers and a plurality of sheets of paper bound together with a typical twin-wire binding mechanism. A twin-wire guard is attached to the covers and generally covers an exposed portion of the twin-wire binding mechanism.

Attachment B discloses a VIEW-TAB™ notebook similarly having a pair of covers and a plurality of sheets bound together with a typical twin-wire binding mechanism. A twin-wire guard is attached to the covers and generally covers an exposed portion of the twin-wire binding mechanism.

Twin-wire binding mechanisms are well known to those skilled in the art. A typical twin-wire binding mechanism includes a number of binding rings extending along a binding axis. Each binding ring is coupled to an adjacent binding ring by a wire. However, twin-wire binding mechanisms are not helical coils. Instead, twin-wire binding mechanisms typically form discontinuous loops that allow individual sheets of paper to escape from the binding (see, for example, page 3 of Attachment B). It is noted that the notebooks of both Attachments A and B utilize twin-wire binding mechanisms.

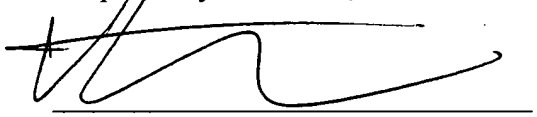
In contrast, the present invention is directed to a coil bound notebook having a generally helical binding coil having a plurality of turns. As noted in the original application, the manufacture of a generally helical binding coil bound notebook having a coil guard is more complicated that the manufacture of a twin-wire bound notebook having a twin-wire cover because the generally helical binding coil must be wound through the binding holes, whereas the

twin-wire binding mechanism is simply inserted through the binding holes and shaped into generally circular binding coils. *See* p. 1, ¶ 3. Furthermore, the generally helical binding coil bound notebook is more advantageous than the twin-wire bound notebook having a twin-wire cover because the generally helical binding coil prevents sheets from escaping from the binding. *See* p. 1, ¶ 5.

In light of the foregoing, the Examiner's rejections of claims 1-3, 7-14, 16-21, 25-32 and 34-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and claims 4, 5, 6, 15, 22, 23, 24, 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and formal notice thereof is respectfully requested.

The applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3) to treat any paper that is filed in this application, which requires an extension of time, as incorporating a request for such an extension. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees required by this paper or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0809.

Respectfully submitted,



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